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#### FDJ TO RECRUIT GERMAN WORKERS FOR POLAND

According to German sources, the Central Council of the Free German Youth (FDJ) disclose to delegates summoned to a conference in June 1950 details concerning a labor project to be known as Operation Joseph II under which East Germany will supply skilled workers and laborers to Poland.

On 14 June the FDJ Executive in Mecklenburg dispatched a secret circular letter signed by Theo Fettin to all its branches, stating that upon recommendation of the Central Council, enrollment is to start immediately for Operation Joseph II, Labor Division. The Soviet Military Administration has ordered that enrollment be completed by 10 July 1950. Each regional district will furnish 120 men, ranging in age from 18 to 30 years. The total enlistment will be 15,000. Should there be insufficient volunteers, recruitment will be mandatory. In anticipation of this eventuality, it was ordered that a roster be prepared, listing the names of all men subject to recruitment. This roster will be submitted to the FDJ Executive on or before 1 July 1950. Members of the FDJ are to be exempted from enrollment, if possible. Weekly reports concerning the progress of the operation will be submitted to the Executive.

According to the official version, Operation Joseph II is the result of negotiations between the Polish government and the East German Republic for recruitment of skilled workers for Poland's heavy industry. Unofficially, however, it may be noted that Poland wants not only skilled workers but also laborers to fortify her coastline and to build airports, rocket launching stations, and cement reinforcements for heavy artillery.

The Polish government first presented its request in November 1949, but the response was negative because of opposition in German economic circles which maintained that German industry needs all available manpower. At the time, Soviet authorities supported this viewpoint. Later, however, because of other considerations and under orders from the Kremlin, the Soviet authorities in East Germany agreed to back the demands of the Polish government. Apparently, the Communist regime in Warsaw does not have confidence in Polish workers.

Each worker enrolled will be required to sign a declaration stating that the operation was organized and financed by the East German Republic and that he, the worker, agrees to work not only in East Germany but also in countries friendly and

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allied to the latter. The workers will be taken to an assembly point in Wuhlheide, near Berlin, from 12 - 14 July, where they will be housed in the barracks used for the Whitsuntide Youth Rally. Subsequently, they will be shipped to the western provinces of Poland.

The German press reports that although Poland has agreed to feed the workers, food supplies for them will probably be shipped from Soviet Zone Germany.

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